

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 14042 01 OF 02 291042Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-05 ACDA-07 AID-05
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /131 W
-----096611 291052Z /10

R 291028Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0969
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 14042

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, GR, GW
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER'S VISIT TO GREECE

REF: ATHENS 7793 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: AS VIEWED FROM THE FONOFF, GENSCHER'S VISIT TO GREECE WAS GOOD FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS, ESPECIALLY IN TERMS OF ATMOSPHERE. POTENTIALLY DIVISIVE SUBJECTS WERE SIMPLY NOT DISCUSSED. GREEK SIDE SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND FRG'S "BALANCED POLICY" ON AEGEAN MATTERS BETTER THAN IT HAD BEFORE. GENSCHER RETURNED CONVINCED THAT ATHENS WOULD REMAIN BOUND BY ITS COMMITMENTS TO NATO IN
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PAGE 02 BONN 14042 01 OF 02 291042Z

SPITE OF ITS REFUSAL TO RETURN TO INTEGRATED ARMED FORCES. END SUMMARY.

1. ON AUGUST 23, THE FONOFF (BENSCH) BRIEFED US ON THE GENSCHER VISIT TO ATHENS. BENSCH'S EVALUATION GENERALLY PARALLELED AMEMBASSY ATHEN'S COMPREHENSIVE REPORT (REFTEL) IN BOTH TONE AND SUBSTANCE. THIS CABLE IS

INTENDED TO SUPPLEMENT AMEMBASSY ATHEN'S REPORT.

2. HAVING HAD SEVERAL DAYS TO REFLECT ON THE TRIP SINCE HIS RETURN, BENSCH SAID HE DEEMED THE VISIT A SUCCESS. THIS WAS TRUE LARGELY BECAUSE OF GREEK EFFORTS TO MAKE IT SO. IN BENSCH'S VIEW, THE GREEK INTEREST IN A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THE VISIT WAS THREEFOLD:

A) CARAMANLIS FACES ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR AND CAN USE THE BOOST TO HIS PRESTIGE FOR INTERNAL POLITICAL EFFECT.

B) THE GREEK SIDE REALIZES THAT THE FRG IS THE MOST OUTSPOKEN ADVOCATE OF GREEK ENTRY INTO THE EC AND WANTED NO FRG DISAPPOINTMENTS ON THAT SCORE.

C) ATHENS WANTED TO GIVE THE APPEARANCE, AT LEAST, OF UNDERSTANDING THE GERMAN "BALANCED POLICY" BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY. THE GREEKS SEEMED TO REALIZE THE FRG'S POTENTIAL AS AN INTERPRETER OF GREEK VIEWS IN ANKARA.

3. TO ENSURE THAT SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME, THE GREEKS SEEMED MORE THAN WILLING TO ACCOMMODATE THE GERMAN DELEGATION.
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PAGE 03 BONN 14042 01 OF 02 291042Z

FOR EXAMPLE, THE GREEK DELEGATION ON THE WORKING LEVEL MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF A GERMAN DECLARATION ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE; THE GERMANS SAID THEY WERE NOT SO INCLINED AND NOTHING MORE WAS SAID ABOUT IT THROUGHOUT THE VISIT. BENSCH ALSO NOTED THAT THE GREEK SIDE QUICKLY ACQUIESCED TO THE GERMAN DESIRE NOT TO INCLUDE A REFERENCE TO A SERIES OF UN RESOLUTIONS IN THE COMMUNIQUE'S LANGUAGE ON CYPRUS.

4. READING FROM HIS NOTES ON THE VISIT, BENSCH MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- EC: THE FRG DELEGATION HAD NEITHER MANDATE NOR DESIRE TO NEGOTIATE ON THE GREEK ENTRY TO THE EC. THERE WAS SOME TALK, HOWEVER, ABOUT NEGOTIATION IN GENERAL TERMS.

-- GREEK GUEST WORKERS: THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION ON SCHOOLING PROBLEMS SOME GREEK CHILDREN WERE EXPERIENCING IN BERLIN. THIS SUBJECT HAD BEEN COVERED IN PRE-VISIT CONSULTATIONS AND IT WAS AGREED AT THAT TIME TO BYPASS THAT POTENTIALLY DIVISIVE ISSUE.

-- CYPRUS: REPORTED SEPTEL.

-- CSCE: GENSCHER ARGUED THAT THE EAST SHOULD BE

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PAGE 01 BONN 14042 02 OF 02 291043Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 14042

AFFORDED NO OPPORTUNITY TO SPLIT THE WEST BY PLAYING ON
GREEK-TURKISH DIFFERENCES. CARAMANLIS WAS NON-COMMITTAL
AND LET THE ISSUE PASS.

-- EAST/WEST RELATIONS: GENSCHER PROVIDED HIS GREEK
CONVERSATION PARTNERS WITH A SUMMARY OF THE FRG'S
POSITION. HE DID DISCUSS THE GERMAN INTEREST IN DETENTE
AND WHAT THAT MEANT FOR THE EMIGRATION OF ETHNIC
GERMANS FROM THE EAST. HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT
THIS DID NOT MEAN THERE WERE ANY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
THE US AND THE FRG ON THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

-- NATO: GENSCHER SAID HE WAS IN FAVOR OF GREECE'S RE-
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PAGE 02 BONN 14042 02 OF 02 291043Z

INTEGRATION INTO NATO. GOG DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROF OBSERVED THAT THE MILITARY WAS 100 PERCENT IN FAVOR OF RE-INTEGRATION BUT THAT ONLY 50 PERCENT OF THE GREEK PUBLIC SHARED THAT VIEW. AS LONG AS THE CONDITIONS WHICH COMPELLED THE GREEK WITHDRAWAL STILL EXIST, AVEROF SAID THAT IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR GREECE TO RE-ENTER FORMALLY. NEVERTHELESS, GREECE WAS ANXIOUS TO DO ALL IT COULD TO COOPERATE ON A TECHNICAL BASIS SHORT OF FULL RE-ENTRY. AVEROF ASSURED THAT GREECE WOULD PUT ITS ARMED FORCES UNDER NATO COMMAND REGARDLESS OF TECHNICAL STATUS SHOULD ANY CRISIS OCCUR TO WARRANT SUCH ACTION. GENSCHER WELCOMED EVERY STEP AND CATEGORICALLY DENIED ANY LINKAGE BETWEEN GREECE'S ENTRY INTO THE EC AND RE-ENTRY TO NATO.

-- AFRICA: GENSCHER BRIEFED THE GREEKS ON FRG POLICY TOWARD AFRICA AND MENTIONED THE GERMAN FEAR OF RACIAL WAR IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE SAID THAT THE ONLY HOPE FOR THE WHITES WAS NEGOTIATION SINCE THE WEST WOULD NOT AND COULD NOT BAIL THEM OUT. THE GREEK SIDE WAS LESS OPTIMISTIC; THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY FOR THE WHITES TO REMAIN.

-- MIDDLE EAST: GENSCHER PROBED THE GREEK ATTITUDES TOWARD ISRAEL. HE NOTED THAT THE EC-9 HAD A COMMON VIEW OF THE ME SITUATION. WHILE ADMITTING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EC VIEW AND THEIR OWN, THE GREEKS CLAIMED TO HAVE THE SUBJECT UNDER "CONSTANT STUDY."

5. GENSCHER DID FORWARD A LETTER FROM GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS TO HIS TURKISH COUNTERPART CAGLAYANGIL. BENSCH SAID HE DID NOT KNOW THE CONTENTS BUT BELIEVED IT CONTAINED INDICATIONS OF GREECE'S WILLINGNESS TO
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PAGE 03 BONN 14042 02 OF 02 291043Z

TALK TO THE TURKS. CONVEYING SUCH MESSAGES, BENSCH SAID, WAS DIRECTLY IN LINE WITH THE ROLE GENSCHER SAID THE FRG SHOULD PLAY, I.E. OFFERINGS ITS GOOD OFFICES, NOT MEDIATING.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1455046
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER'S VISIT TO GREECE
TAGS: PGOV, OVIP, GR, GE, (GENSCHER, HANS-DRIETRICH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ee0b5851-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009